Poverty assessment in the country

†2387. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR:
SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India ranks 65th in the list of poor nations published in the fresh report of UNO;

(b) the difference between the Government and UNO with respect to assessment and the number;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the efforts made by Government to alleviate the poverty at accelerated pace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) to (c) The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in its recent publication Global Hunger Index 2009 brought out that India ranks 65th in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) for 2009. The GHI 2009 is based on parameters such as the proportion of undernourished in the population, prevalence of under weight under five years and under five mortality rate. The Planning Commission uses the poverty line based on per capita consumption expenditure to determine the persons living below the poverty line. Therefore, the above two exercises are based on different methodologies using different parameters and are not comparable. According to the latest poverty estimates 30.17 crore (27.5 per cent) persons were living below the poverty line in the country in 2004-05.

(d) The Government is implementing a number of poverty alleviation programmes such as National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojna (SGSY) and Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojna (SJSRY) Mid-day Meal Scheme, Integrated Child Development Scheme, etc. These programmes primarily aim at improving the income levels of the poor and the nourishment standards of children. Similarly, the other flagship programmes like National Rural Health Mission aim at reducing the infant mortality rate.

Major problems of country

2388. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the major danger or disasters that are faced by the country; and

(b) the order of priority in terms of long term or short term in tackling these major problems like climate change. Resource Depletion including Global Meltdown, Food insecurity, population growth, poverty and economic instability?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) and (b) The priorities of the Government are reflected in the Five Year Plan, which is placed before the Parliament after getting approval of National Development Council (NDC). The sector-wise allocations are made accordingly,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.